

OPINION 2236 (Case 3424)**PSEUDOCOCCINI Cockerell, 1905 (Insecta, Hemiptera): precedence given over SPHAEROCOCCINI Cockerell, 1899**

Abstract. The Commission has conserved the usage of the family-group name PSEUDOCOCCINI Cockerell, 1905 (type genus *Pseudococcus* Westwood, 1840) for the mealybugs, a speciose group including many pests of agriculture, by giving it precedence over the senior family-group name SPHAEROCOCCINI Cockerell, 1899 (type genus *Sphaerococcus* Maskell, 1892).

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Hemiptera; COCCOIDEA; PSEUDOCOCCINI; SPHAEROCOCCINI; *Pseudococcus*; *Sphaerococcus*; mealybugs.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that that the family-group name PSEUDOCOCCINI Cockerell, 1905 and other family-group names based on *Pseudococcus* Westwood, 1840 are to be given precedence over SPHAEROCOCCINI Cockerell, 1899 and other family-group names based on *Sphaerococcus* Maskell, 1892 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon.
- (2) The name *Sphaerococcus* Maskell, 1892 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Sphaerococcus casuarinae* Maskell, 1892 is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
 - (a) PSEUDOCOCCINI Cockerell, 1905 (type genus *Pseudococcus* Westwood, 1840), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Pseudococcus* are to be given precedence over SPHAEROCOCCINI Cockerell, 1899 and other family-group names based on *Sphaerococcus* Maskell, 1892 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;
 - (b) SPHAEROCOCCINI Cockerell, 1899 (type genus *Sphaerococcus* Maskell, 1892), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Sphaerococcus* are not to be given priority over PSEUDOCOCCINI Cockerell, 1905 and other family-group names based on *Pseudococcus* Westwood, 1840 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon.

History of Case 3424

An application to conserve the usage of the family-group name PSEUDOCOCCINI Cockerell, 1905 (type genus *Pseudococcus* Westwood, 1840) for the mealybugs, a speciose group including many pests of agriculture, by giving it precedence over the senior family-group name SPHAEROCOCCINI Cockerell, 1899 (type genus *Sphaerococcus* Maskell, 1892) was received from Nate B. Hardy and Penny J. Gullan (*University of California, Davis, CA, U.S.A.*) on 5 June 2007. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 65: 24–26 (March 2008). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments were received on this case.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 2009 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 65: 25. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2009 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 18: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bogutskaya, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Kottelat, Kullander, Krell, Lamas, Minelli, Ng, Pape, Papp, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol and Zhang.

Negative votes – 3: Bouchet, Lim and Patterson.

Pyle was on leave of absence.

Kottelat said he voted FOR the proposals only because this concerns a number of pests for agriculture and usage is demonstrated in the relevant literature and other documents. Ng also voted FOR, stating that, although the terms in this Case do contravene the Principle of Priority, he noted that the family name PSEUDOCOCCIDAE has been placed on the Official Lists, is a family of some commercial significance, and a name change here is likely to have an impact. Much as he disliked breaking the Principle of Priority, he felt there is reasonable basis to concur with the applicants.

Bouchet voted AGAINST the proposals, explaining that these conditional reversals of precedence are a source of nomenclatural instability.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

PSEUDOCOCCINI Cockerell, 1905, *Colorado University Studies*, **2**: 193.

SPHAEROCOCCINI Cockerell, 1899, *Bulletin of the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History*, **5**: 389.

Sphaerococcus Maskell, 1892, *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute*, **24**: 39.